

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 9, 2004, Applicant amends his application and requests reconsideration. In this Amendment, claims 4, 6, 8, 10, 13, 19, and 22 are cancelled leaving claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14-18, 20, 21, 23, and 24 pending. Of these pending claims, only claims 1, 3, 9, 11, 15-17, and 21 are currently under examination.

As an initial matter, Applicant points out that claim 1 is generic as to claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 24. Thus, if claim 1 is allowed, claims 5, 7, 12, 14, and 24 should be rejoined to the prosecution and also allowed. The rejoinder of these claims is the basis for amendment of withdrawn claim 7.

Claim 15 is generic to claims 16-18 and 20. Therefore, upon allowance of claim 15, claims 18 and 20 should be rejoined to the prosecution. Claim 20 is amended to conform to amended claim 15 for ease of rejoinder of claim 20 upon the allowance of claim 15.

In this Amendment examined claims 1 and 2 are combined as amended claim 1. The amended claim is clarified in the final paragraph and similar clarifications are made in claims 3 and 7. Because there is reference in some of these claims to different kinds of protrusions in different parts of the heatsink plates, reference is now made to "binding protrusions" and "binding indentations" that appear in the binding portion of the heatsink plates. Likewise, reference is made "separating protrusions" for protrusions on the heat-dissipating portions of the heatsink plates and on the heat-dissipating fins of the heat-dissipating portions to avoid confusion. This confusion was not possible with the previous claims, but the amendment of claim 1 makes this clarification advisable. The clarification is carried through with respect to not only the claims that depend from amended claim 1, but also in other claims with similar language, such as claims 15, 17, 20, and 21, for uniformity of description. An obvious error in stating the complementary relationship of protrusions and indentations is corrected in claims 3, 7, 17, and 20.

Claim 1 was rejected as anticipated by Kuo (U.S. Patent 6,289,975). This rejection is moot in view of the incorporation into amended claim 1 of claim 2, a claim that was not rejected as anticipated by Kuo.

Claim 9 was rejected as obvious over Kuo, considered by itself, based upon Official Notice. Applicant respectfully traverses the Official Notice, but the rejection can no longer be maintained because it was clearly founded upon the premise that claim 1

was anticipated by Kuo. Thus, no further comment on the rejection of claim 9 is required nor provided.

Examined claims 1-4, 15-17, 21, and 22 were rejected as anticipated by Azar (U.S. Patent 6,301,779). This rejection is respectfully traversed both as to the claims examined and as to the claims now presented.

Each of the examined pending independent claims describes a heatsink that includes a plurality of heatsink plates, each plate having a binding portion and a heat-dissipating portion. The heatsink plates are bound together at the respective binding portions. At least some of the heat-dissipating portions are bent at respective angles with respect to their binding portions.

Each of the independent claims now pending describes the heat-dissipating portions and/or the heat-dissipating fins of the heat-dissipating portions as including a separating protrusion that contacts a heat-dissipating portion and/or heat-dissipating fin of an adjacent heatsink plate. These separating protrusions ensure that the heat-dissipating portions of the heatsink plates are spaced from each other to improve the heat-dissipating function of the heatsink. The claims have been clarified, without substantive change, to ensure that the proper parts of each heatsink plate are referred to in each of the independent claims.

Azar cannot anticipate any of the examined independent claims that are now pending.

In applying Azar, the Examiner directed attention to the embodiment illustrated in Figures 9-11 of Azar, particularly as described in column 8 of that patent. In considering that description and the corresponding figures, it is apparent that the binding portions of the heatsink plates, best viewed in Figure 9 of Azar, are the horizontal portions 950 identified by Azar as bases. Further, the heat-dissipating portions of those plates are the flanges 960 that are oblique in that Figure 9 of Azar. Thus, it is apparent by studying Figure 10 of Azar, in combination with Figure 9, that the semi-spherical protrusions 962 and 963 are in the bases, i.e., binding portions, of the heatsink plates, not in the heat-dissipating portions which are bent at an angle with respect to the respective bases. While many of the pending and examined claims refer to protrusions in the binding portions, now referred to for clarity as "binding protrusions", it is apparent that those protrusions are different from the "separating protrusions" of the claims. The separating protrusions of the claimed heatsink are present in the heat-dissipating portions of the heatsink plates. Thus, for the fundamental reason that Azar does not disclose the presence of any

protrusions within the heat-dissipating portions or heat-dissipating fins of his heatsink, no claim now pending can be anticipated by Azar.

In the invention as described by each pending and examined independent claim, each separating protrusion on a heat-dissipating portion or a heat-dissipating fin of a heat-dissipating portion contacts a heat-dissipating portion or a heat-dissipating fin of an adjacent heatsink plate. Even if the semi-spherical protrusion 962 in Figure 10 of Azar were compared to the separating protrusions of the claimed invention, the contact specified in the claims is clearly absent. Applicant recognizes that the protrusion 963 in Figure 10 of Azar is in contact with the corresponding dimple 964. Of course, that engagement is intended to ensure proper registration between the bases of two of the depicted heatsink plates. However, that contact is not between a protrusion and either a heat-dissipating portion or a heat-dissipating fin of a heat-dissipating portion. Thus, because of the absence of the contact specified in each of the pending and examined independent claims, Azar cannot anticipate any pending claim under examination nor any of the dependent claims that depend from those independent claims.

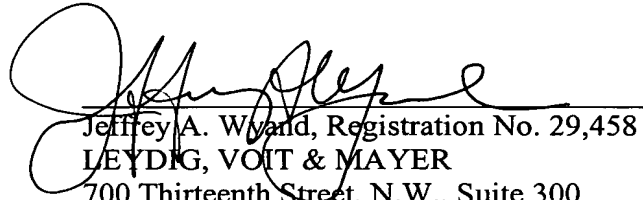
Claims 10 and 11 were rejected as unpatentable over Azar considered by itself. Again, this rejection is based upon Official Notice which Applicant traverses. Claim 10 has been cancelled and the rejection of claim 11 is founded upon the assertion that claim 3 and claim 1 are anticipated by Azar. That anticipation rejection cannot reasonably be maintained for the reasons already presented. Therefore, the rejection of claim 11 should be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14-18, 20, 21, and 24. Since, in this Amendment, previously pending claims have been combined and claims have been clarified without substantive

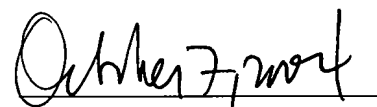
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amendment, if the Examiner should make a new rejection based upon newly applied prior art or a different legal ground, that rejection should not be a final rejection.

Respectfully submitted,



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